

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended). A frame alignment system comprising:

a frame to be positioned in a wall opening, the frame including ~~horizontal components~~ and two spaced apart, vertical components; and
a spreader with folded and unfolded positions defining at least one spreader distance for the two vertical frame components, the spreader including:

a plurality of members, the summed lengths of unfolded members defining the at least one spreader distance[[;]] including
~~at least one hinge to pivotally join each member to at least one other member;~~ and
at least two member end portions configured in an unfolded spreader position to contact the vertical frame components and receive surface features of the vertical frame components, and the end portions in a folded spreader position are spaced from the vertical components; and

at least one hinge to pivotally join each member to at least one other member.

10. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 9 wherein the spreader includes two members joined by a hinge and the sum of the unfolded member lengths define at least one spreader distance for the vertical components.

11. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 9 wherein the spreader includes first, second and third members and the sum of the unfolded member lengths define at least two spreader distances for the vertical components.

12. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 11 wherein the third member moves between:

an unfolded position, in which the summed lengths of all three unfolded members defines a first spreader distance; and

a folded position with the third member overlapping the first member, in which the summed lengths of the first and second members in the unfolded position define a second spreader distance.

13. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 12 wherein the spreader includes three member ends, each configured to receive surface features of the vertical frame components.

14. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 9 wherein the spreader includes four members where summed lengths of unfolded members define at least three spreader distances for the vertical components.

15. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 14 wherein the third member moves between an unfolded position extending from the first member and a

folded position overlapping the first member, and the fourth member moves between an unfolded position extending from the second member and a folded position overlapping the second member, and with the first and second members in an unfolded position:

with the third and fourth members in folded positions and overlapping the first and second members, the summed lengths of first and second members define a first spreader distance;

with the third member unfolded and the fourth member folded and overlapping the second member, the summed lengths of first, second and third members define a second spreader distance; and

with the third member folded and overlapping the first member and the fourth member unfolded, the summed lengths of first, second and fourth members define a third spreader distance.

16. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 9 wherein the surface features of the vertical components received by the spreader member end portions are door stops.

17. (Previously Presented) The framing system of claim 9 the spreader further including standoffs to elevate the spreader above floor level.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for aligning a frame in a wall opening with a spreader that moves between folded and unfolded positions, the method comprising:

positioning a hinged folded spreader, including first and second members and first and second member ends, between first and second vertical members of the frame where the first and second member ends are spaced from the first and second vertical members;

unfolding the hinged spreader, the combined length of unfolded members defining at least one spreader distance for the frame;
moving the first vertical frame member to contact the first member end; and
moving the second vertical frame member to contact the second member end;
wherein the first and second member ends conform at least in part to surface features of the first and second vertical frame members.

19. (Withdrawn) The frame aligning method of claim 18 where the first member includes the first end and the second member includes the second end.

20. (Withdrawn) The frame aligning method of claim 18 wherein the spreader further includes a third hinged member and unfolding the hinged spreader includes, with the third hinged member in a folded position overlapping the first member, in which the combined length of first and second unfolded members define a first spreader distance, moving the third member to an unfolded position in which the combined length of the first, second and third unfolded members define a second spreader distance.

21. (Withdrawn) The frame aligning method of claim 18 wherein the spreader further includes third and fourth hinged members and unfolding the hinged spreader includes:

with the first and second hinged members in an unfolded position and with the third and fourth hinged members in a folded position overlapping the first and second members, in which the combined first and second member lengths define a first spreader distance, moving the third hinged member from the folded position overlapping the first member to an unfolded position in which the

combined first, second and third member lengths define a second spreader distance; and

with the first, second and third hinged members in the unfolded position, moving the fourth hinged member from the folded position overlapping the second member to an unfolded position in which the combined first, second, third and fourth member lengths define a third spreader distance.

22. (Currently amended) A frame spreader with extended and retracted positions and at least one preset spreader length that spaces frame components in a wall at a preset distance, the spreader comprising:

at least one elongate body member;

a first extension hingeably attached to the at least one elongate body member and configured to move between a folded position and an unfolded position where;

in the folded position the extension overlaps the at least one elongate body member and the folded extension does not contribute to the spreader length; and

in the unfolded position the extension extends from the at least one elongate body member and the unfolded extension contributes to the spreader length;

wherein in the extended spreader position the frame components are repositioned to contact two ends of the spreader at the preset spacing distance and in the retracted spreader position the two ends of the spreader are spaced from the frame components.

23. (Previously Presented) The frame spreader of claim 22 wherein at least one end of the at least one elongate body member and at least one end of the first extension each conforms, at least in part, to the profile of the frame component for which the spacing is set by the spreader.

24. (Previously Presented) The frame spreader of claim 22 further comprising a second extension hingeably attached to the at least one elongate body member and configured to move between a folded position and an unfolded position where:

in the folded position overlapping the at least one elongate body member the second extension does not contribute to the spreader length; and

in the unfolded position extending from the at least one elongate body member the second extension contributes to the spreader length.

25. (Previously Presented) The frame spreader of claim 24 wherein at least one end of the first extension, at least one end of the elongate body member and at least one end of the second extension conforms, at least in part, to the profile of the frame component for which the spacing is set by the spreader.

26. (Previously Presented) The frame spreader of claim 22 further comprising standoffs to elevate the spreader above floor level.